

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A device, comprising:
 a set of computing resources for providing a
 service which is accessible via a network;
 service handler that provides access to the
 service in response to an email message.
- 10 2. The device of claim 1, wherein the email message
 carries the service and an invoke command such that
 the service handler loads and runs the service using
 the computing resources in response to the invoke
 command.
- 15 3. The device of claim 1, wherein the email message
 carries a URL for the service and an invoke command
 such that the service handler obtains the service
 from the URL and then loads and runs the service
 using the computing resources in response to the
 invoke command.
- 20 4. The device of claim 1, wherein the email message
 includes a command associated with the service such
 that the service handler passes the command to the
 service in response to the email message.
- 25 5. The device of claim 1, wherein the service
 handler enables access to the service in response to
 an HTTP command.

6. The device of claim 1, wherein the service is a diagnostic service for the device.

7. A communication system, comprising:

5 device having a set of computing resources for providing a service and having a service handler that provides access to the service via a network;

firewall that controls access to the device from outside of the network;

10 computing element that accesses the service through the firewall by transferring an email message to the service handler using an email message.

8. The communication system of claim 7, further comprising a computing element that accesses the service by transferring an HTTP command to the service handler via the network.

15 9. The communication system of claim 8, wherein the HTTP command includes a command associated with the service such that the service handler passes the command to the service in response to the HTTP command.

20 10. The communication system of claim 7, wherein the email message carries the service and an invoke command such that the service handler loads and runs the service using the computing resources in response to the invoke command.

25 30 11. The communication system of claim 7, wherein the email message carries a URL for the service and an invoke command such that the service handler obtains

the service from the URL and then loads and runs the service using the computing resources in response to the invoke command.

5 12. The communication system of claim 7, wherein the email message includes a command associated with the service such that the service handler passes the command to the service in response to the email message.

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13. The communication system of claim 7, wherein the service is a diagnostic service for the device.

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14. A method for accessing a service in a device, comprising the steps of:

transferring an email message to the device via a network;

accessing the service in response to the email message.

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15. The method of claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

transferring an HTTP command to the device via the network;

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accessing the service in response to the HTTP command.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the email message carries the service and an invoke command.

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17. The method of claim 16, further comprising the steps of loading and running the service using a set

of computing resources in the device in response to
the invoke command.

18. The method of claim 14, wherein the email
5 message carries a URL for the service and an invoke
command.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising the
steps of obtaining the service from the URL and then
10 loading and running the service using a set of
computing resources in the device in response to the
invoke command.

20. The method of claim 14, wherein the email
15 message includes a command associated with the
service.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising the
step of passing the command to the service in
20 response to the email message.